

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are canceled rendering moot the 35 U.S.C. § 103 rejections.

New claims 21-39 are added to directly respond to the Examiner's "Response to Arguments" suggestions and statements commencing at the last paragraph of page 2 to the first paragraph of page 3. The undersigned thanks the Examiner for these suggestions and statements and respectfully submits the new claims to be commensurate therewith in order to advance prosecution. No new search is required and it is believed that these claims are in condition for allowance. Such allowance is requested.

The Examiner is thanked for pointing out that "a spin outcome" on page 3, first full paragraph, is not commensurate with the disclosed invention of "single spin outcome." In each independent claim that follows, the phrase "single spin outcome" is now used to comply with the Examiner's suggestion and to fully distinguish the claimed inventions from Adams and all of the other cited prior art. The use of this phrase also addresses the openness contention of the former claims as found in the first full paragraph on page 4 of the rejection. When each independent claim is read as a whole, the casino slot game is played to "a single spin outcome in response to a wager received from a player." The "single spin outcome" is the random display of "a matrix of symbols for the plurality of play lines." When a "trigger symbol is displayed in a predetermined area of the matrix of symbols," then the player is alerted as qualifying for the "player selectable wild feature" (independent claim 35 recites initiation rather than trigger symbol, as explained below). Each independent claim also recites displaying the pay table with winning combinations and corresponding awards and that the "player selectable wild feature" when it occurs provides "the player with a touch input" (independent claim 35 recites "input") to obtain "any winning symbol combinations having higher corresponding awards based on the pay table than found in the single spin outcome." The casino slot game then receives player input in response to the "player selectable wild feature" to select a symbol which converts to wild in the "single spin outcome". The player is then awarded in response to converting the touched symbol to wild. These claimed features are not found in the traveling wild card of Adams which is used in another game outcome played in the future by a player. Bennett relates to a traveling animated symbol which is not the claimed player input of selecting. The earlier arguments are incorporated by reference. All claims are non-obvious over Adams and over Adams in view of Bennett.

New claims 21-28 are directed to the embodiment of the present invention found at paragraph [0030] in the published application. Here, the player is alerted, when a trigger symbol is displayed in the predetermined area of the matrix of symbols. The player selectable wild feature of this embodiment affords the player the opportunity to touch one of the remaining symbols which then converts to a wild symbol. Dependent claim 22 recites further converting all other symbols in the displayed matrix for the one game outcome that are the same as the touched symbol to wild as found in paragraph [0041]. Dependent claim 23 claims the feature of providing an enhanced multiplier and claim 24 recites that the multiplier is random as found in paragraph [0041]. Dependent claim 25 recites converting each remaining symbol in a line having the touched symbol as found in paragraph [0041]. Dependent claim 26 recites the trigger symbol becoming automatically wild as found in paragraph [0038]. Dependent claim 27 recites presenting instructions to the player on how to play the wild feature as found in paragraph [0038]. Dependent claim 28 recites that the player alert occurs in a multi-media presentation as found in paragraph [0038]. There is no teaching, suggestion, or inference in Adams or in Bennett of (1) a trigger symbol displayed in a predetermined area of the symbol matrix, (2) of alerting the player to touch one of the remaining symbols in the single spin outcome so as to obtain winning combinations having higher awards than found in the single spin outcome, (3) converting the touched symbol to wild, and (4) awarding the player for any winning combinations in the single spin outcome in response to the conversion.

New claims 29-33 are directed to the embodiment of the present invention at paragraph [0038]. Independent claim 29 recites that the trigger symbol also becomes automatically wild in the Player Selectable Wild Feature in addition to the one symbol touched by the player. Dependent claims 30, 31, 32 and 33 correspond to dependent claims 22, 25, 27, and 28, respectively as set forth above. There is no teaching, suggestion, or inference in Adams or in Bennett of (1) a trigger symbol displayed in a predetermined area of the symbol matrix, (2) of alerting the player to touch one of the remaining symbols in the single spin outcome so as to obtain winning combinations having higher awards than found in the single spin outcome, (4) converting the touched symbol to wild, (5) automatically converting the trigger symbol to wild and (6) awarding the player for any winning combinations in the single spin outcome in response to the two conversions.

New claim 34 is directed to the embodiment of the present invention at paragraph [0040]. Here, the trigger symbol appears and the player can select any one of the displayed symbols in the matrix, including the trigger symbol. There is no teaching, suggestion, or inference in Adams or in Bennett of (1) a trigger symbol displayed in a predetermined area of the symbol matrix, (2) of alerting the player to touch any one of the symbols in the single spin outcome, including the trigger symbol, so as to obtain winning combinations having higher awards than found in the single spin outcome, (3) converting the touched symbol to wild, and (4) awarding the player for any winning combinations in the single spin outcome in response to the conversion.

New claims 35-39 are directed to the embodiment of the present invention where the initiation of the player wild selectable feature is not limited to a trigger symbol in a predetermined area of the display matrix, as found in paragraphs [0030], [0038], and [0041]. However, independent claim 35 further recites that the player is alerted when the initiation occurs. Dependent claim 36 recites that the initiation trigger is randomly occurs in response to the wager as found in paragraph [0041]. Dependent claim 37 recites that the initiation trigger is a function of successive losses at the casino slot machine as found at paragraph [0041]. Dependent claim 38 recites that the initiation event is the appearance of the trigger symbol in a predetermined area of the displayed matrix of symbols as found in paragraph [0030]. Dependent claim 39 recites that the display is a touch screen. There is no teaching, suggestion, or inference in Adams or in Bennett of (1) a initiation trigger, (2) that alerts the player to touch at least one of the displayed matrix symbols in the single spin outcome so as to obtain winning combinations having higher awards than found in the single spin outcome, (3) converting the touched at least one symbol to wild, and (4) awarding the player for any winning combinations in the single spin outcome in response to the conversion.

An Information Disclosure Statement is further submitted to advise the Examiner of possible related applications.

It is maintained that all claims are in condition for allowance and such allowance is respectfully requested.

Should you have any questions regarding the above, please feel free to give the below-listed attorney a call. If additional fees are required, please debit our Deposit Account No. 04-1414.

Respectfully submitted,

DORR, CARSON, SLOAN, BIRNEY & KRAMER, P.C.

Date: 4/15/05

By: Robert C. Dorr

Robert C. Dorr
Reg. No. 27,782
3010 East 6th Avenue
Denver, Colorado 80206
(303) 333-3010

C:\DOCS\Patent\Mikohn\357 - Response to 01-07-2005 OA